

Services for Victims of Juvenile Crime at JCC–Lewiston						
VICTIM SERVICES INFORMATION		JUVENILE OFFENDER PROGRAMMING TARGETING VICTIMS			RESTITUTION	COMMUNITY SERVICE
Victim Program Coordinator	Letters of Apology	Victim Impact Panel	Victim Offender mediation	Victim Awareness Journal	Dollars Collected by Year	Hours Performed by Year
Melinda Sonnen (208) 799-3332, ext.116	Yes	Planning phase	Not at this time	Yes	None at this time	Varies depending on availability of projects and the eligibility of residents

Contact: Please contact Victim Program Coordinator Melinda Sonnen at (208) 799-3332, extension 116, for questions or more information.

Victim Impact Panels: The Juvenile Corrections Center in Lewiston (JCC–Lewiston) is developing a Victim Impact Panel using community volunteers to share their stories about how their lives have been impacted by crime. JCC–Lewiston will use a mixed model allowing eligible juvenile offenders to participate in the VIP (Victim Impact Panel). The goal is to have a VIP once a month. Our first panel is scheduled for 2009 and will be followed with quarterly VIPs.

Victim Offender Mediation: JCC–Lewiston does not currently participate in victim mediation but may do so in the future.

Victim Awareness Journal: JCC–Lewiston is currently using the new version of the *Victim Awareness Journal*, adopted in September 2007 after collaboration with all three state juvenile correctional centers. The *Victim Awareness Journal* focuses on responsibility, accountability, and courage; it is published for the Department by The Change Companies.

Community Service: Community service projects provide hands-on opportunities to make amends, experience community involvement, and demonstrate positive values. JCC–Lewiston has partnered with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to clean up lake and river accesses, hiking trails, and building and removing fences. We also provide trail maintenance at Winchester State Park and provided grounds maintenance services to Lewis-Clark State College during the NAIA World Series. JCC–Lewiston is presently pursuing a program where a recipient of our services would pay for the service by either goods, (i.e. sporting event tickets, fishing licenses, etc.) or money. We in turn, pass on the goods or money to identified victims within the community.

Victim Apology Letter Procedure: While juvenile offenders are in their first month at JCC–Lewiston, they complete a list of people and/or businesses they view as having been harmed by their actions. As juvenile offenders move forward in the program, the victim list is adjusted as they become more aware and have a deeper understanding the impact of their crimes.

At about halfway through their projected stay, juvenile offenders at JCC–Lewiston complete victim apology letters to their victims. A draft letter is shared with at least two of their peers, their staff advocate, and the Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Specialist.

Upon approval by all of the above, the letters are sent to the Juvenile Probation Officer, Juvenile Services Coordinator, and group leader as the final authority for both approval and distribution.

Through the victim apology letter procedure juvenile offenders are encouraged to include:

- A description of how they hurt their victim;
- Identify thoughts and feelings the victim might have felt;
- Explain how the offender can now understand how the victim may have felt that way;
- Explain how the offender plans to make amends for what he has done;
- Explain to the victims what the offender has done to change his beliefs and attitudes to prevent him from committing those acts in the future. The juvenile offender is encouraged to be specific (what did he learn during his stay at JCC–Lewiston); and
- Identify his motives for the letter (how he was then and how he has changed now).

Juvenile offenders also write victim empathy letters as a part of the Victim Empathy Curriculum.

Victim Empathy Curriculum (biannual repeat of curriculum): As part of the Victim Empathy Curriculum at JCC–Lewiston, juvenile offenders are required to complete the *Victim Awareness Journal*. In addition to completing the journal, juvenile offenders spend one hour a week processing and evaluating the information presented in the journal. As each section of the journal is processed juvenile offenders write a “Victim Empathy” letter to assist with an understanding of the harm they have caused. Empathy letters include the following:

- victims of the crimes;
- families of the victims;
- juvenile offenders (how his/her criminal, addictive activity hurt him/her personally);
- juvenile offender’s family;
- juvenile offender’s peers; and
 - those that he/she has used with and/or committed crimes with as well as
 - those that have been affected by his/her using and committing criminal activities
- community he/she lives in.

Juvenile offenders at JCC–Lewiston also view the “Victim Impact Listen and Learn” video and participate in group discussions regarding what they have viewed on the video (created by Justice Solutions, Washington DC). Areas of discussion include:

- arson-related homicide;
- assault;
- burglary;
- child sexual abuse;
- child abuse and neglect;
- crimes against a person with a disability;
- domestic violence;
- drunk driving;
- gang-related homicide;
- hate crime;
- homicide;
- rape; and
- robbery.

Additionally, juvenile offenders complete and process two other journals related to being productive citizens through the empathy curriculum at JCC–Lewiston. They are:

- **Personal Relationships**–This journal provides juvenile offenders with a focus on how healthy relationships are formed. It includes a special emphasis on communication skills.
- **Living with Others**–Juvenile offenders focus on six important skills: communication, expressing feelings, interacting with people, accepting feedback, decision-making and establishing boundaries.